

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9628

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, PE

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 42239; (B) LIMA A-145, 6/13/73;

(C) TOAID A-89, 4/26/72

COMMENTS RELATING TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF (A) FOLLOW:

1. ROLE OF UNDP IN UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

A. THE OFFICE OF THE UNDP RESREP HAS TAKEN GREATER INITIATIVE
OVER THE PAST YEAR TO COORDINATE AND PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO ALL
UN TA ACTIVITIES IN PERU.

THE RESREP CONVENES A MEETING AT LEAST EVERY TWO MONTHS OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES WHICH SERVES AS A
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CLEARING HOUSE FOR CURRENT AND PLANNED OPERATIONS OF THE

AGENCIES, AND AS A MEANS TO INFORM THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF UNDP DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP REPRESENTATIVES ON MATTERS AFFECTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION, THE NEWLY INSTALLED EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM FOR UNDP PROJECTS, THE GREATEST NUMBER OF WHICH ARE EXECUTED BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, GIVES THE OFFICE OF THE RESREP AN EXPANDED LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE CONDUCT OF UNDP ASSISTANCE.

B. UNDP CONTINUES TO PLAY A LOW KEY ROLE IN THE COORDINATION OF ALL TA IN PERU PROVIDED BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BILATERAL DONORS. AS DISCUSSED IN REF (B) THE UNDP CONSIDERS THAT ITS COORDINATION FUNCTION SHOULD BE ONE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING INSTITUTE (INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE PLANIFICACION- INP) TO COORDINATE EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. TO THIS END, UNDP HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE INP WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - E.G. ONE OR MORE PROGRAM TECHNICIANS TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR COORDINATING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION, IN GATHERING AND PUBLISHING THE ANNUAL REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN PERU, UNDP FOR THE FIRST TIME COLLABORATED CLOSELY WITH INP FOR THE 1972 REPORT, AND HOPES EVENTUALLY TO TURN OVER TO INP COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS REPORT, AS ONE MORE TECHNIQUE FOR ENCOURAGING INP TO BECOME A MORE ACTIVE TA COORDINATOR. RECENTLY THE UN RESREP WAS REQUESTED BY SEVERAL EUROPEAN DONOR COUNTRIES TO CHAIR INTERNAL COORDINATION MEETINGS TO REVIEW PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

C. NOT ONLY UNICEF BUT ALL UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE, AS DESCRIBED IN REF (C) AND THROUGH THE COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW, DESCRIBED BELOW. UNDP AND IBRD UNDERTAKINGS ARE RELATIVELY WELL COORDINATED AND COMPLEMENTARY, ACCORDING TO A UNDP SPOKESMAN. HOWEVER, UNDP HAS SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT IBRD'S EFFECTIVENESS AS A PROJECT EXECUTING AGENCY, BASED ON EXPERIENCE LOCALLY.

2. THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST PROGRAM REVIEW CYCLE HAVE JUST
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BEEN PUBLISHED BY UNDP. DATA FOR THE REVIEW WERE DEVELOPED THROUGH A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH PROJECT EXECUTION AGENCIES AND QUESTIONNAIRES SENT TO COOPERATING PERUVIAN AGENCIES. TWO MEETINGS WITH OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DONORS WERE HELD TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON CURRENT AND PLANNED ASSISTANCE, FOLLOWED UP BY AN INP/UNDP QUESTIONNAIRE TO DONORS REGARDING THEIR ACTIVITIES. THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE QUESTIONNAIRES RESULTED IN THE 1972 REPORT REFERRED TO

ABOVE, AND ALSO BECAME A PART OF THE DATA USED IN THE FORMAL PROGRAM REVIEW. A TWO-DAY REVIEW WAS HELD IN SEPTEMBER, 1973, IN WHICH 3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNDP OFFICE AND 3 REPRESENTATIVES OF INP PARTICIPATED. THE PUBLISHED REPORT INCLUDES CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF EACH PROJECT. UNDP REPRESENTATIVES INDICATED THAT THE REVIEW WAS SATISFACTORY AS AN INITIAL EFFORT, AND BELIEVE THAT AS EXPERIENCE IS GAINED THE REVIEWS WILL BECOME MORE USEFUL AS A RE-PLANNING TOOL. THE REVIEW NOTED DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION (E.G. DELAYS IN ARRIVALS OF TECHNICIANS, IN DEVELOPMENT OF WORKPLANS, ETC.) AND RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS WHERE POSSIBLE. THE REVIEW ALSO INCLUDED AN ANALYSIS OF FUNDS, INCLUDING FUNDS THAT WERE AVAILABLE FOR THE PROGRAMMING OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES. THE SECOND REVIEW WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER 1974.

3. USAID TECHNICAL OFFICERS CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH UN COUNTERPARTS AS APPROPRIATE AND THE USAID DIRECTOR HAS FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE UN RESREP. INFORMAL CONTACTS ARE MAINTAINED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNDP OFFICE, AND WHEN NECESSARY USAID COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PROJECTS.

4. THE UN COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW EXERCISE, AS WELL AS THE EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM HAVE SERVED TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON PROJECT PROBLEMS AND ENCOURAGE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.

5. A UNDP REPRESENTATIVE CONCERNED DIRECTLY WITH IMPLEMENTING THE NEW EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM BELIEVES THAT THE SYSTEM IS EFFECTIVELY OPERATING AND IS HELPING TO IMPROVE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, AND STRENGTHEN UNDP'S LEADERSHIP POSITION VIS-A-VIS EXECUTING AGENCIES. HOWEVER, HE FEELS THAT THE REPORTING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM IS TOO COMPLEX, AND FOR GREATER EFFECTIVENESS SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED.

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